



Gray Fox
Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Description:

- ◆ Grizzled gray on top
- ◆ Reddish sides and chest
- ◆ Dark brown mane on throat
- ◆ Prominent ears

Characteristics:

- ◆ A carnivore, feeding on rodents and rabbits
- ◆ Only American canid with climbing ability
- ◆ Most active at twilight and night
- ◆ Will bark, growl, and yap
- ◆ Young ready to hunt at four months

Tidbits:

A fur-bearing animal in Arizona, this fox has few predators. Although considered a carnivore, the gray fox can be seen eating nuts, berries, fruit, and grass. Grasshoppers are an important part of its diet in summer.

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Merriam's Turkey
Meleagris gallopavo

Description:

- ◆ Iridescent (rainbowlike) brown
- ◆ Fan-shaped tail
- ◆ Spurs on feet; "beard" on breast of males
- ◆ Head and neck are featherless

Characteristics:

- ◆ Eats seeds, nuts, acorns, fruit, and insects
- ◆ Gobbling calls similar to domestic turkey
- ◆ Swift runners and quite wary
- ◆ Nest concealed in grass or shrubs
- ◆ Lives in oak woodlands or pine-oak forests

Tidbits:

The largest game bird in North America. This bird is native only to North America and Mexico. The male will strut and gobble to attract a hen during courtship. The call of the wild turkey can be heard up to a mile away.

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Desert Bighorn Sheep
Ovis canadensis

Description:

- ◆ Muscular, thick neck
- ◆ Light-colored belly
- ◆ Males - massive brown curled horns

Characteristics:

- ◆ An herbivore
- ◆ Hooves are cork-like to aid in traction
- ◆ Live where few other animals can survive
- ◆ Excellent eyesight

Tidbits:

A big game animal in Arizona. During mating season, males will butt heads at speeds up to 20 mph creating a rifle-shot sound that can be heard up to a mile away. These battles can continue for 20 hours. Lions are the primary predator of bighorn sheep.

Note: Males substantially larger/heavier than females

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Javelina
Tayassu tajacu

Description:

- ◆ White-yellowish ring of hair around neck
- ◆ Pig-like snout
- ◆ Large canines. Small hooves

Characteristics:

- ◆ An herbivore
- ◆ Musk gland exudes skunky odor
- ◆ Can run at 25 mph
- ◆ Will swim from danger when necessary
- ◆ Very poor eyesight

Tidbits:

A big game animal in Arizona. Resembles a pig, but is not a member of the pig family. Will feed in gardens and on fallen bird seed, which can create potential conflicts with people. Its activity is strongly related to temperature, seeking shelter during midday heat.

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Pronghorn
Antilocapra americana

Description:

- ◆ Black horns
- ◆ White rump and white tail
- ◆ Tan or orange-brown body and white belly

Characteristics:

- ◆ An herbivore
- ◆ Fastest mammal in North America: 60 mph
- ◆ Can sustain 30 mph for long distances
- ◆ Can detect movement four miles away
- ◆ Will use sharp hooves to fight off predators

Tidbits:

A big game animal in Arizona. Numbers vary depending on food supply and predation. Coyotes are the biggest threat to the young. The Sonoran pronghorn, located in south-western Arizona, is endangered.

Note: Males substantially larger/heavier than females

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Elk
Cervus elaphus

Description:

- ◆ Heavy bodied with slender legs
- ◆ Large antlers on males
- ◆ Dark brown mane on throat

Characteristics:

- ◆ An herbivore
- ◆ Can run 35-40 mph
- ◆ Very vocal, including common 'bugle' call
- ◆ Herds can be composed of up to 400 elk

Tidbits:

A big game animal in Arizona that is a member of the deer family. They are the second-largest mammal in Arizona next to the bison. Antlers can reach a length of up to 5 feet. Primary predator is the mountain lion.

Note: Males substantially larger/heavier than females

Elk photo by Joe and Marisa Cerreta

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Ringtail
Bassariscus astutus

Description:

- ◆ Body resembles a cat and face of a fox
- ◆ Yellowish-gray fur above, whitish below
- ◆ Long, bushy tail with white and black rings
- ◆ Prominent dark, round eyes, rounded ears

Characteristics:

- ◆ An omnivore
- ◆ Grooms itself much like a house cat
- ◆ Most often will ambush prey
- ◆ A nocturnal animal that is rarely seen
- ◆ Likes rocky areas, such as canyons

Tidbits:

Also known as a 'miner's cat', the ringtail is the state mammal. The ringtail will feed on rodents, insects, cactus fruits and other vegetation. Part of its diet consists of snakes, scorpions, and centipedes.

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Bobcat
Lynx rufus

Description:

- ◆ Short, stubby tail, known as a bobbed tail
- ◆ Tan or grayish fur
- ◆ Ears are slightly tufted
- ◆ Strong resemblance to a house cat

Characteristics:

- ◆ A carnivore
- ◆ Lives only in North America
- ◆ Fur provides excellent camouflage
- ◆ Will stalk or wait and pounce to kill prey
- ◆ Calls can sound much like a house cat

Tidbits:

A fur-bearing animal in Arizona. Although small wildlife are their primary food source, a bobcat is capable of bringing down a deer. Bobcats are North America's most common wildcat.

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Height: 1-1.25 ft.
Weight: 7-13 lbs.
Length: 2-3.5 ft.

Height: 2.5-3.5 ft.
Weight: 75-225 lbs.
Length: 4-4.5 ft.

Height: 3-3.5 ft.
Weight: 70-140 lbs.
Length: 4-4.5 ft.

Height: 5-8 in.
Weight: 2-3 lbs.
Length: 1-1.5 ft.

Height: 2.5-3 ft.
Weight: 10-20 lbs.
Length: 3-4 ft.

Height: 1.5-2 ft.
Weight: 35-60 lbs.
Length: 2.5-3.5 ft.

Height: 3-5 ft.
Weight: 400-800 lbs.
Length: 5-8 ft.

Height: 1.5-2.5 ft.
Weight: 15-40 lbs.
Length: 2-3.5 ft.

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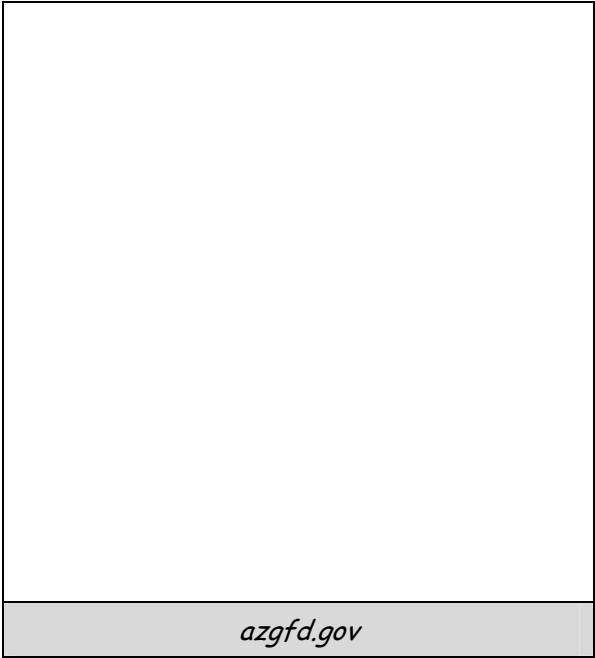
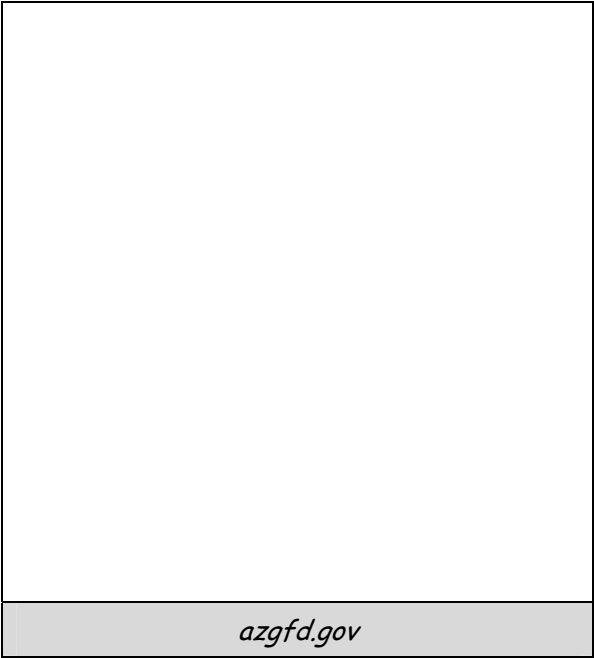
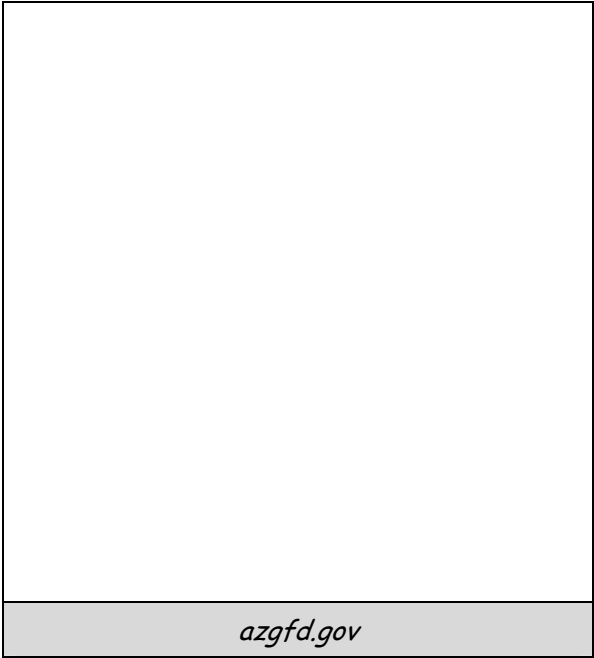
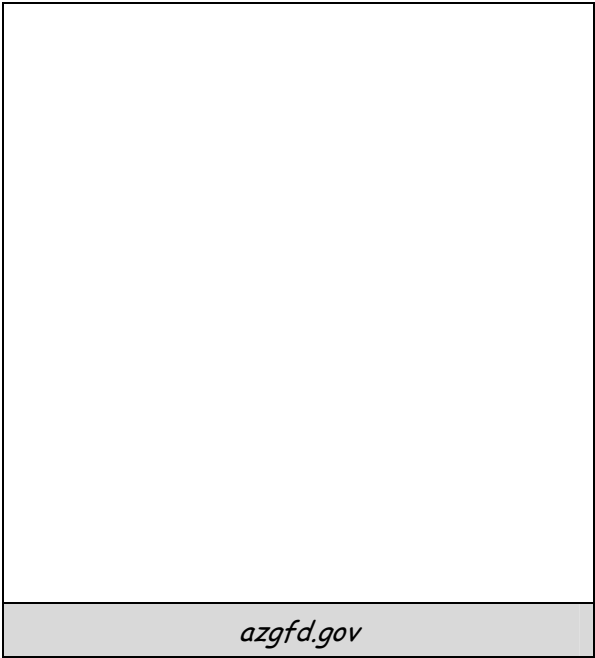
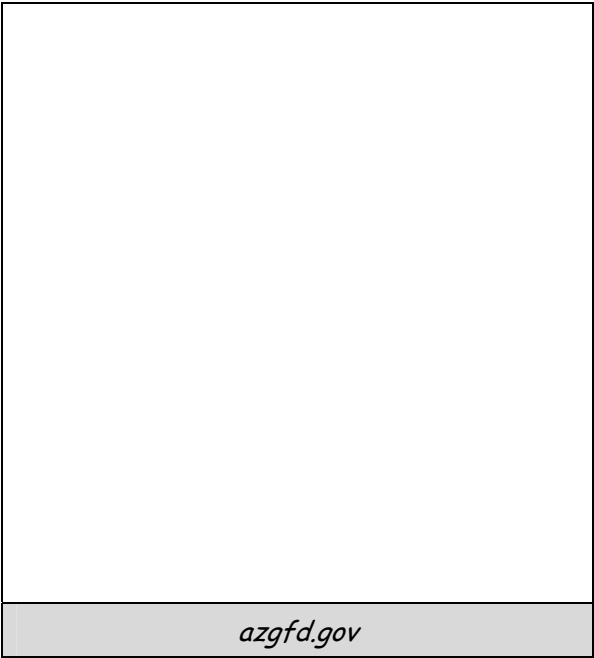
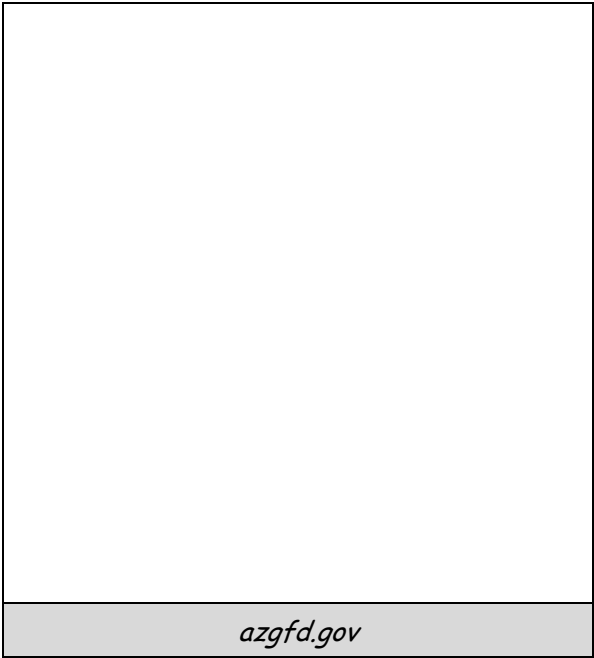
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Biotic Communities Trading Card Rubric

Use the following rubric to assist as you create your card of your assigned plant or animal.

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Picture	Picture shows the plant or animal clearly, is in focus, well cropped and appropriate for the card.	Picture shows the plant or animal, is in focus, but may not be well cropped.	Picture may be out of focus, poorly cropped or inappropriate for the card.	Picture is incorrect, sloppily done, or missing.
Content	Information is accurate and complete, addressing all required areas: size, color, special adaptations, habits, necessary living conditions, interesting facts, diet, predator or prey (for animals).	Information is accurate, but some required areas are not included.	Some information is inaccurate and/or many required areas are not included.	Much information is incorrect and/or most required areas are missing
Layout	Layout is attractive and neatly done. It is easy to read and visually pleasing.	Layout is neatly done, but could be more easy to read or visually pleasing.	Layout may be a little sloppy or poorly designed.	Layout is difficult to read because it is sloppy and poorly designed.
Spelling and Proofreading	No spelling or grammar errors in the final copy.	No more than 2 spelling or grammar errors in the final copy.	No more than 3 spelling or grammar errors remain in the final copy.	More than 3 spelling or grammar errors remain in the final copy.

